

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (US 6,386,673). Claims 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Morishima et al. (US 6,226,022).

Claims 2 and 4-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The present invention relates to a printer with an automatic density adjusting function that prints a color image on a color photographic paper that has a cyan (C) layer, a magenta (M) layer and a yellow (Y) layer by producing a color of each layer and a density adjusting method of the printer.

Takahashi relates to an image output apparatus for forming an image on a printing medium, an image formation system including the image output apparatus and an image supply apparatus for supplying image data to the image output apparatus, an image output method, and a printed matter which is printed by the image output method.

Morishima relates to a substrate comprising a light reflection pattern for reflecting a light from a light source and an image recording apparatus using the substrate.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections with the following comments.

With respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that Takahashi fails to teach or suggest the claimed density measuring device that measures densities of C, M and Y colors according to the

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amounts of the reflected lights of the test patterns of R, G and B colors that are acquired from the light-receiving sensor. The Examiner points to col. 15, lines 47-49 and col. 16, lines 13-16 and 21-25 as allegedly disclosing this feature of claim 1, but Applicant disagrees. The cited excerpts simply disclose that densities OD_1 to OD_N in portions corresponding to the individual printing elements are measured to obtain an average density as a correction object and that this average density does not need to be calculated by averaging the densities of the individual elements. For example, it is possible to use a method of calculating an average value by integrating the quantity of reflected light, or some other well-known method.

However, such a disclosure is much more general than the specifically recited features of the claim, which recites a density measuring device that measures densities of C, M and Y colors according to the amounts of the reflected lights of the test patterns of R, G and B colors that are acquired from the light-receiving sensor. The cited portions of Takahashi are silent with regard to these features. Moreover, whereas the claims describe test patterns of R, G, B colors, it is not clear whether the average density of Takahashi relates to gradation rather than individual R, G, B colors. Thus, claim 1 is not anticipated by Takahashi.

Further, Applicant submits that Takahashi does not teach or suggest the adjusting device that adjusts color production of the C, M and Y layers of the color photographic paper so that the measured densities of C, M and Y colors are target densities, as recited in claim 1. Here, the Examiner refers to col. 15, lines 46-49 and 60-65. However, the cited portions of the reference are silent regarding adjusting color production of the C, M and Y layers of the color photographic paper. Moreover, the cited portions are silent with regard to adjusting color production of the C, M and Y layers of the color photographic paper so that the measured

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densities of C, M and Y colors are target densities. Hence, claim 1 is not anticipated for this reason as well.

Applicant submits that claim 3 is allowable over the prior art, at least because of its dependence from claim 1 and because Morishima fails to make up for the above-noted deficiencies of Takahashi.

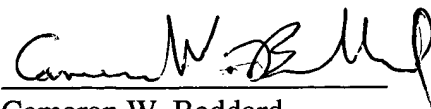
Claim 9 is allowable for reasons analogous to those for claim 1.

Claims 10-11 are added to describe features of the invention more particularly and are believed to be allowable at least because of their dependence from claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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